SELECTIONS
FROM THE
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS
PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,
OUDH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 30th September, 1876.

POLITICAL.

GENERAL.

The *Panjábi Akhbár* of the 23rd September, after extolling the pomp and grandeur of the approaching Imperial Durbar at Delhi, recommends an increase in the amount of State pensions granted to the princes of Delhi. The condition of these princes is really deserving of compassion. Some of them get not more than four rupees a month, and may be said to be actually in a state of starvation.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the same date urges upon the Government the justice of restoring the seven guns to the chief of Leharu, which it took from him as a loan some time ago. The Government, in withholding the restoration, will not only be guilty of breach of trust, but displease a native chief, distinguished for his ability and worthy of consideration in every way. Had he lived in the times of the Moguls, he would have occupied a very high position at their Durbar, and his estates would have been greatly enlarged.

The *Anand Dari* of the 22nd September mentions the details connected with the murder of a native labourer in

Candy (Ceylon) by an Englishman, on whom the Judge, upon the strong recommendation of the jury for mercy, passed a sentence of rigorous imprisonment for eighteen months. The editor proceeds to remark that the frequent occurrence of these murders is wholly due to the unhappy circumstance that the crimes of Europeans are not visited by a proportionately heavy punishment in the courts of law. The sudden elevation to high authority in this country of Europeans belonging to the lower classes of society at home, makes their heads dizzy with power. The natives accordingly come down in their eyes to the level of wild beasts. They will never hesitate to subject the natives to any indignities or outrages. It is simply the inadequacy of punishment that fosters these violent habits in them. If the Government learns to punish its countrymen as it does the natives, it will earn for itself the enviable glory of dispensing equal justice to all its subjects, the strong as well as the weak.

The *Malwa Akhbár* of the 27th September observes that Englishmen in the beginning promised perfect equality to the natives and endeavoured with great humility to make friends with them. It must of course be freely acknowledged that Englishmen at first did behave towards the people with kindness and courtesy. But now the conduct of Europeans has undergone a complete revolution. A judge, however noted for justice, will administer the law with a regard to the white or dark skin of the contending parties. The natives are thus naturally persuaded to keep aloof from Englishmen as much as possible. A European sportsman shoots a native with as much ease and indifference as he does a deer, and he enjoys a perfect immunity from punishment. There are hundreds of instances of this nature on record. The horrible mutiny of 1857 probably owed its origin to this very circumstance. Strong hopes were cherished that matters would mend under the sovereignty of the Queen. But until the time of Lord Northbrook no appreciable improvement was visible; and accordingly the time of the old India Company

used to be perferred to that of Her Majesty. During the rule of Lord Northbrook Baroda saw a change of Government, but luckily escaped annexation to the British dominions. It is a matter of joy that Lord Lytton is eagerly bent on the advancement of the natives. His Lordship has openly subscribed to the belief of the superiority of natives over Europeans in judicial matters. It is commonly believed that ere long he will promote natives to offices of trust and responsibility, and thus give them a fair share in the administration of the country. He also appears to have made up his mind to have the offending Europeans adequately punished for their outrages upon the natives. The Indian visit of the Prince of Wales may be rightly said to have laid the foundation for the advancement of the children of the soil, but the erection of the superstructure is left in the hands of His Lordship.

The *Aligarh Institute Gazette* of the 22nd September hopes that the protest of the High Court will not prevent Lord Lytton's minute in the Fuller's case from producing the beneficial results that are commonly expected of it. The editor also trusts that His Lordship will not easily yield to the objections of the High Court, but will answer them according to his high position as a Governor-General. No doubt the public mind has began to fear that His Lordship's Resolution will be rendered void by the protest of the High Court. However, it must be inferred from the address recently made by Mr. Justice Turner to a jury, that even the High Court, though it may object to the procedure of Lord Lytton on legal points, is convinced of the justice of His Excellency's reprimand. That His Lordship's minute has already begun to tell upon the administration of justice in courts of law may be seen in another way. An assistant who killed a native at Karachi has been fined Rs. 500, and also put to an expense of Rs. 1,000 in conducting the defence. If the assistant in question and Mr. Fuller may be said to be guilty of one and the same crime, the vast disparity between the fines which the two had severally to pay can be accounted

no other ground but that of Lord Lytton's anger. It has been asserted by a contemporary, says the editor, that the friends of the assistant have greatly raised the amount of this heavy fine upon him. Here the question is not whether their sorrow has been greater than that of the unfortunate family of the murdered. Indeed, this is at once apparent that Europeans do not set a greater value on the life of a native than on the money. In fact, they do not hold the life of a native of much account. The editor is glad to find that the friends of the assistant felt the weight of the fine imposed upon him. As long as the lives of natives are saved from the high-handed violence of Europeans, whether by dread of a heavy fine or any other penalty it is all that is wished for. A fine of five hundred rupees is by no means a sufficient atonement for the crime of murder. However, comparatively speaking, it is a great improvement upon the Rs. 30 which Mr. Fuller had to pay.

The *Sheet-Anchor* of the 26th September says that for a long time the reports of English oppression and violence need to strike the ears of the natives, and that hopelessness and dejection prevailed throughout the country in consequence. In the same way the news of punishments inflicted upon Europeans for their acts of carelessness, partiality, or tyranny will serve to trouble their minds and tend to correct the false notion of their own superiority. There was a time when a single European planter could kill a native, and after paying a fine of Rs. 30 in a court of justice, inflicted by a native of his own, play on the harmonium at home in peace. The time has now come when an covenanted European is to be punished for disinterring the remains of a Hindu saint, and is even ordered by Government to call personally upon the relations of the latter and to apologise. [illegible] the editor regrets the particulars connected with Mr. Waddell's case, that the Head Assistant Collector of [illegible] with the advice of the Municipal Commissioners, backed by the opinion of the medical officer, had the corpse

of a Hindu recluse forcibly exhumed by his relations, purely on sanitary grounds, from the side of a public tank of water where he had been buried, and removed to another place. On this the offended party petitioned the Madras Government, and Mr. Weld was ordered to express regret at what he had done and to apologise, besides paying eight hundred Rupees as compensation. He has also been subjected to the indignity of suspension. The Government must be held to be very whimsical in its proceedings. It is well known how hard-heartedly the Government acted in the Baroda case. The Gaekwar, Mulkar Rao, a high native prince, having an able man like Sergeant Ballantyne for his counsel, and the opinion of the majority of the commission in his favour; to say nothing of the hearty reluctance of the Secretary of State to convict him, was yet deposed by the Government on account of the charges brought against him by a Colonel whose integrity of conduct the whole world had reason to doubt. While on the contrary, a European Magistrate, who besides the concurrence of the Municipal Committee and the Medical Officer, had the good of the public health to plead in defence of his conduct, has been punished for disinterring the body of a poor idolatrous fakir, like a chaprasi, getting Rs. 8 a month.

There was a set of persons who looked upon Lord Lytton's minute in the Fuller's case as a mere deception, saying that if he was in earnest he should have bound Messrs. Fuller and Leads up in a mat. The editor, addressing these men, observes that the English Government is so bound down with its laws and institutions that even Her Gracious Majesty the Queen cannot take her petty subsistence allowance from the public treasury without permission. How can then an officer dare to interfere in the legal proceeding of another officer who may be his equal or subordinate? Accordingly, the Viceroy adopted a policy which impressed the courts of justice with the need of acting in such a way as to save them from the interference of the executive. In this state of things continues for a time, it may be confidently

The *Vrita Dhára* of the 25th September in the column of summary of news, referring to the disturbances in Turkey, says England and Russia seem bent on the subversion of the Muhammadan power.

The *Mulna Akhbár* of the 18th September says that there is no likelihood of the Amir of Cabul coming to attend the Imperial assemblage at Delhi, and that consequently the *Anglo-Indian Press* has expressed dissatisfaction at the conduct of the Amir, on the ground that he receives pecuniary support from the Government of India. The editor cannot realise the necessity of the Amir's personal attendance at the Durbár, inasmuch as he is not a vassal of the Indian Government, but on the contrary, the Government itself pays him an annual subsidy.

ADMINISTRATIVE.

(GENERAL.)

A correspondent of the *Panjábi Akhbár*, dated 23rd September, acknowledging with gratitude the blessing which the Government has conferred upon the people at large by the establishment of charitable dispensaries throughout the country, suggests the division of each dispensary into two branches, one for the higher and one for the lower classes of the community. It is very unpleasant to men of the higher classes, poor as they are, to herd with the low people in a dispensary.

native zenana, as hundreds of women yearly die at the hands of ignorant and inexperienced daies.

The same paper states that the punishment of hanging is intended for the maintenance of order and the propagation of the human race, and that transportation to the Andamans has been resorted to, to prevent the extermination of the race and to colonize those islands; but the practice of hanging several persons in avenging the murder of one will produce just the contrary effect. In mauza Bisal, ilaka Gujarat, in the Panjáb, no less than seven persons were hanged for the murder of one man not long ago. The editor is opposed to the practice of the Government of hanging several persons for the death of one person.

A correspondent of the *Rafiqul Hind*, dated 23rd September, referring to Circular No. 16 of 1876 of the Inspector-General of Police, Panjáb, ruling that the District Superintendents of Police should hold examinations twice a year in their districts for candidates, belonging to the rank of sergeant to Deputy Inspectorships, fails to see the wisdom of leaving everything in the hands of the Superintendents. In the first place, a natural result of allowing full discretion to them with respect to the examination will be, that examinations will be held at different times in different districts. In the second place, another evil of a worse kind will arise under the present system. There will be a great scope for the exercise of favouritism on the part of the district police officers. The Superintendent, Court Inspectors, and Inspectors, having themselves to set the questions and examine the papers, are sure to be influenced by personal feelings; thus there can be no hope of fair play under the existing arrangements. The claims of men really able but having no interest with the examiners will undoubtedly be overlooked. It is therefore advisable that a Sudder Committee should be appointed to conduct the examinations.

The same paper notices the propriety of enhancing the scale of pay until [illegible] to native military officers, viz.,

[illegible] pensions, which is very inadequate [illegible] of interrupted peace in the country, but also ceased to reap any of the benefits of [illegible] A respectable correspondent of the [illegible] attention to the fact that men serving in [illegible] that those serving in the army because the former can draw half the amount of their salary as pension, and are not liable to such incidental expenses as charges for uniforms, travelling expenses, &c. They have also extraordinary means of making money. In one case Saiad Ahmed Khan Bahadur received four thousand rupees as commission for dividing a quantity of valuable ornaments among certain contending parties.

A correspondent of the *Aligarh Institute Gazette* of the 22nd September says that the question of retrenchment has produced a great alarm in the public service. The unfortunate men who are likely to be its victims are mortified at the prospect of being thrown out of employ and of losing those claims upon the Government which their long and faithful services had secured for them. Having spent the best part of their life in the service of the Government, they do not know how to pass their old age. Those that are placed beyond the danger of reduction are subject to anxiety from another quarter. The fear of increased work weighs as an incubus upon their breasts. They are already overworked, and the slightest addition to their work will involve them in difficulties. At the same time it should be borne in mind that no reasonable reduction of establishments in the lower grades of the service (as chaprasis, [illegible] and peshkars) will go far to cover the loss occasioned to the State by the depreciation of silver. A great misery will necessarily take place in the execution of the public measure, even most above the entailment of terrible misery upon the poor sufferers. It is therefore to be regretted that the Government has not paid due attention to retrenchment in this quarter. There are other branches by which it may easily

out its object in less objectionable ways. Let the districts that are not sufficiently large be absorbed into the adjoining districts. This will effect a saving of lakhs of rupees. If the Government be unwilling to commit itself to such a bold proceeding, let it curtail the pay of the highly-paid officers. In this way, too, the administration of the country will be left intact. A reduction of two hundred or four hundred rupees from the pay of two officers, getting two thousand or four thousand rupees a month, will go as far as the dismission of fifty subalterns. Nor will these officers greatly miss a hundred or two hundred rupees from their pay.

The Police Department also deserves the serious consideration of the Government. It should be observed how vastly expensive is the present administration of the department, compared to what it was before, without any proportionate increase of efficiency. Under the former system, there never existed any thanadars on two hundred rupees a month, or Superintendents on five hundred or one thousand rupees a month. It is not easy to understand why some of these highly-paid European officers of the Police Department are not discharged from the service, especially now that they have been greatly relieved of their work under the recent arrangements introduced by the Government. In arguing against the Police Department, the editor would not for a moment be understood to advocate a reduction of the constabulary force, but of the officers who hold perfect sinecures. The Government is aware that under the old system there existed only chaukidars and thanadars, and that they were sufficient to all intents and purposes. Their former pay falls into insignificance in comparison to what they draw now. In proportion to the increase in the scale of pay and number of officers, there has been a corresponding decrease in the efficiency of the department. Under these circumstances the maintenance of the European Police officers at the present strength is not justified, not only their number, but also the

The *Rohilchand Akbar* of the 27th September, in an article headed "Reduction," after dwelling on the Indian visit of the Prince of Wales, the assumption of the title of Empress by Her Majesty, and the approaching Durbar at Delhi in honour of the occasion, which boded well for India, remarks that the directions issued by the Government to the heads of departments to enforce retrenchment in the *amla*, have caused a terrible agitation. The writer then proceeds to observe that India is already sufficiently loaded with the weight of poverty, and is unable to bear the least addition to its burdens. It precisely resembles the shorn lamb. The people of the west and east have despoiled it to the last hair, and now appear inclined to strip it of its very skin. The wiser policy would have been to support it and to allow the fleece to grow, and to clip the fleece every year. But, on the contrary, it is intended to replenish the coffers of the State by the wholesale dismissal of the poor public servants who toil day and night in the conduct of the public affairs. It is not just that the entire pressure of retrenchment should be brought to bear on the lowest grades of the service, and that the high grades should stand wholly unaffected by it. The writer is of opinion that the annual tours of [illegible] involve unnecessary expenditure on the State, and are a great injury to the people, and should therefore be [illegible] very much, and that the pay of all Government servants [illegible] should be reduced at the rate [illegible] headed "The Zemindars of Bengal and the Government,"

on the authority of a contemporary, that the Government when the estate of a deceased zemindar comes under its management during the majority of the heir, first asks itself how the accumulated cash of the zemindar should be spent. A reference is made to an instance in which Sir George Campbell, the late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, prohibited the manager of the estate of a minor from purchasing land out of the ready money in hand to the extent of a *crore* of rupees, and asked him to spend the money in other ways, remarking that an addition to the estate would involve the owner in difficulties and ruin him. Another instance is also alluded to, in which the Collector, determined to expend the accumulated money of a minor, which amounted to seventy-five thousand rupees, asked the manager to spend the money on the construction of roads, or tanks, or surveying; but as all these things existed, he insisted on having the estate re-surveyed. The editor holds that the expense of the construction or reparation of roads should fall on local funds, and not on the zemindar. The fact is that the English people have duped the simple natives with sweet words. It was never their object to acquire the sovereignty of India; they are adverse to the extension of their territory and to the absorption of native states. But, in spite of these fair professions, they have usurped supreme power in India.

A correspondent of the *Khair Khooh-i-alam* dated 22nd September, in an article headed "the High Court," says that this tribunal is an independent and self-willed court of justice. No one in India, not even God himself, has any control over it. True, an appeal lies from its decisions to England, but every one cannot afford to bear the expenses. The institution of an appeal involves an expenditure of no less than ten thousand rupees. The rulers of the country have made the life and property of the Hindustani depend on the whims and fancies of this tribunal. With the exception of the possession of a royal seal it has no superiority over the other courts (which are maintained out of the court fees paid by the people). It is their court for collecting taxes from the people.

The Judges of the High Court never go out in camp on tour, and do not exercise a strict supervision over the proceedings of the subordinate courts. The writer goes on in the same spirit, alluding also to the long vacation of four months enjoyed by the High Court every year. A fair estimate of the administration of justice at the hands of the High Court may be formed from the rules recently published in the North-Western Provinces, fixing the rates for serving processes, &c. As regards the civil courts, it is, of course, notorious that the case is decided according to the length of the lawyer's purse. From the outset, the litigant has to pay heavy fees to the Government for the privilege of pleading his cause in court, and he is subjected to a number of petty charges, such as the payment of fees for serving processes, &c. It is strange that the Government should make such charges, seeing that the police are already paid from Municipal and Government revenues. Thus the High Court may be said to be nothing else but a court for collecting taxes from the people.

The *Paisa Akhbar* of the 25th September, in reference to the rumour about the invasion of India by the Russians, in a more or less distant future, remarks that no doubt the military power of the Government is able to cope with the enemy. The natives also, being a devoted and loyal people, are sure to sacrifice their lives in the cause of the British Government. But as they are ignorant of military drill, they will not be of any material use to the Government against trained and experienced soldiers. It will therefore be a wise policy on the part of the Government to give the people a military training. It will thus be enabled to secure their services in time of difficulty, without incurring any expense. In order to carry out this object, the Government should start schools in every district, where students should be taught the use of weapons of attack and defence; and vacancies in the army recruits should be filled up from among these students.

RAILWAY.

A correspondent of the *Rahbar-i-Hind* dated 26th September, says that sanguine hopes were at first entertained with respect to the superiority of management of State Railways, but experience has quite disappointed the public. The railway officers, the carriages, the rate of speed, and the general administration, all deserve censure. The writer in his journey to Gujranwálla saw the booking-office clerk at the Lahore station with an angry face using harsh language towards the passengers. The clerk never returned any passenger's change. It is also noticed that all passengers on arrival at Gujranwálla are forced to bathe in the foul and stagnant water of a tank; no exception being made even in the case of the sick. If a sick man dies from the effect of bathing, who will be held responsible for his death?

MISCELLANEOUS AND EDUCATIONAL.

The *Rahbar-i-Hind* of the 23rd September, on the authority of a correspondent, notices the prevalence of theft in the

The same paper, in its correspondence columns, bitterly complains of the ill treatment which the subordinate officers, as well as all classes of the community, receive at the hands of the tahsildar of Batala, zila Gurdaspur (Panjab). He lately issued a peremptory parwana to Sir Raja Sahib Dayal Bahadur, K.C.S.I., to attend the court to settle his accounts, which the Raja forwarded to the Commissioner for information. On this the Commissioner severely rebuked the tahsildar for his insolence and haughtiness, and ordered him to apologise. The detailed particulars of another act of oppression and violence are also given. The tahsildar himself, and, at his order, his chaprasis also, belaboured one Misri Karam Ilahi with sticks, on the pretext of disobedience, but in reality through malice and enmity, till the latter fell senseless on the ground. The tahsildar, seeing the man severely wounded and fearing lest he should seek redress at the hands of the Deputy Commissioner, Gurdaspur, quieted him by giving him Rs. 10.

A correspondent of the *Koh-i-Nur*, dated 23rd September, complains of the misconduct of the boatmen at the Ravi ferries at Debra Nanak in Gurdaspur. They are exceedingly dilatory in their duties and act as they please. Travellers, even after they have paid their tolls, have to wait long before the boat is started. If one remonstrates and finds fault with the boatmen, he runs the risk of being abused and beaten. In consequence of the great delay on the part of the boatmen, travellers are often landed at nightfall on the other side of the river, and are obliged to put up for the night on the bank or in some adjoining village, where they are exposed to robbery. The conduct of these boatmen should be strictly looked after.

A correspondent of the same paper, writing from Gurdaspur, says that the salt at present dug out of the mines is very impure and is consequently a great source of sickness and weakness among the natives. It is suggested that these mines should be filled up, and recourse should be had to the old mines which were worked under former administrations, and which yielded an article of better quality.

The *Urdu Akhbár* of the 23rd September complains of remissness on the part of the Government Telegraph office at Akola. Private messages are much delayed in transmission. The clerks charge double rates not only for messages sent on Sundays or by night, but also for day messages up to 10 A. M. The inconvenience to the public from the above circumstances is aggravated by the existence of a Government circular to the effect that the Government Telegraph should be used in exclusion of the Railway Telegraph. The Government should therefore see to the irregularities of the Akola Telegraph office, owing to which not only is inconvenience felt by the public but the institution is worked at loss by Government.

The Vernacular Press continues to impress upon the Musalmáns of India the propriety of rendering pecuniary aid to Turkey for the support of the wounded and invalids.

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

NAME.	DATE.
Nagari Akhbar,	April 12th
Ditto, ...	June 14th
Mangal Samachar, ...	August 1st
Najaf-i-Hind, ...	September 16th
Punjab Gazette, ...	" 17th
Mufid-i-Akbbar, ...	" 18th
Meerut Gazette, ...	" 19th
Rafiq-ul-Akbbar, ...	" 20th
Zeal-ul-Akbbar, ...	" 21st
Lahore Gazette, ...	" 21st
Taiyar-ul-Akbbar, ...	" 21st
Nasir-ul-Akbbar, ...	" 21st
Akhbar-ul-Akbbar, ...	" 21st
Akhbar-i-Darbar Gazette, ...	" 22nd
Anwar-i-Punjab, ...	" 22nd
Punjab Chronicle Gazette, ...	" 22nd
Punjabi Akhbar, ...	" 23rd
Urdu Akhbar, ...	" 23rd
Koh-i-Nur, ...	" 23rd
Vakil-ul-Akbbar, ...	" 23rd
Sanjab-i-Takmir, ...	" 23rd
Urdu Akhbar (Agra), ...	" 23rd
Rohilkhand Akhbar, ...	" 23rd
Khair Khwah-i-Hindustan, ...	" 23rd
Rahbar-i-Hind, ...	" 23rd
Nur-ul-Anwar, ...	" 23rd
Nur-ul-Afaq, ...	" 23rd
Oudh Akhbar, ...	" 24th
Akmalul-Akhbar, ...	" 24th
Naja-ul-Akhbar, ...	" 24th
Kavi Vachan Sudha, ...	" 25th
Vrit Dhára, ...	" 25th
Khabar-i-Sikandari, ...	" 25th
Adil-i-Alam, ...	" 25th
Karnatak, ...	" 25th
Sahgunal-Akhbar, ...	" 25th
Fateh Akhbar, ...	" 25th
Bhárat-Mitr, ...	" 26th
Akhbar-i-Nasim, ...	" 26th
Rahbar-i-Hind, ...	" 26th
Shahi Taj, ...	" 26th
Rohilkand Akhbar, ...	" 27th
Oudh Akhbar, ...	" 27th

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

NAME.	DATE.
	1876.
Málwa Akhbár, ...	September 27th
Nayar-i-'Azam, ...	„ 27th
Akhbár-i-'Am, ...	„ 27th
Shams-ul-Akhbár, ...	„ 28th
Táj-ul-Akhbár, ...	„ 28th
Núr Afshán, ...	„ 29th
Oudh Akhbár, ...	„

PRIYA DAS,

Offg. Govt. Reporter, Vernacular Press, Upper India.

DATE.	NAME.
1878.	
September	"
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